





won without an effort by fifteen yards from F. L. Lammert, who passed Newlands in the straight run in. Time 5 min. 17 1/2 secs.—a very good performance for the winner considering the heavy track.

**CONSOLATION RACE.**—H. S. Woodcock, first; H. de C. Hunniman, second; A. Denison, third; E. B. Shepherd, 4th; F. Maitland, 5th; R. Maitland, 6th. Woodcock, apparently little the worse for his exertions in the mile, dashed away in front as soon as the pistol was fired, and never being fairly approached, won cleverly by two yards from Hunniman, who was a similar distance in front of Denison. Time 13 1/2 seconds.

**INTERNATIONAL TUG OF WAR.**—8 men a side. Nationality to be decided by that of the father. To be pulled over 15 feet. No spikes or nails allowed. Prizes presented by the Harrow Community.—Two "scratch" teams were got together, and considerable trouble, and an adjustment was made to the Parade Ground, where England beat Ireland in two successive "tugs" in 1 min. 18 secs. and 34 seconds respectively.

## OUR MACAO LETTER.

MACAO, April 8th, 1888.

*Lasciate ogni speranza, voi ch'entrate*—might well be written at the entrance of this abandoned city, as it has a reputation of being the gate of hell, for the administrative mismanagement, the wrong-doing and the considerable evils with which we are surrounded are strongly suggestive of the reign of Satan; assuring that that individual is not a fiction.

You need not be surprised at the tithical language I generally make use of in describing the current events of this city. Things are gloomier here than words can express them, or even A. J. G. Latham's brush paint them.

The ratification of the long pending Chinese-Portuguese Treaty is thought by some of our superstitious folk to be a universal panacea for all our complaints. They say that the important fact of signing this treaty, Portugal has practically acknowledged the suzerainty of China, since the colony has been bound to co-operate in the collection of the opium revenue as a condition, *a sine qua non* of its remaining a Portuguese possession. How the celebration of this patched up international compact is to bring on a revival of trade and commerce, when no Portuguese merchant ever leaves Lisbon to settle here, when no ships either national or foreign ever shows their colours in this remote and forgotten corner of Far Cathay, is a riddle I cannot solve; I will leave it to the few enthusiasts, who both here and in Hongkong are dissolving their lives in admiration of things Lusitanian, to decide.

The ostensible negotiator of the treaty, Senhor Thomaz de Souza Roza, is to proceed to Peking on the 10th inst., with his admiring friend and political adviser, Mr. Silva, of the Macao Interpretation Department. It is surmised that should no further difficulties arise between Li Hung-chang and the eminent Portuguese statesman, the treaty will be ratified during the course of this month. Minister da Roza is to be made a Viscount in recognition of his services, and will be appointed Portuguese Minister at Washington; Mr. Fendella, the Secretary, has I believe, already been decorated, and it is now Mr. Nolasco's turn to obtain a Knight-Commander of the Order of Christ, or some analogous badge of his country's gratitude for the services he has rendered at Peking. As by means of his interpretation, he has also rendered China substantial services, it is to be hoped that the Peking Board of decorations will bestow on him a Mandarin's button and feather, which I would certainly value far more than all the Portuguese Knight-Commander's ornaments. The Secretary, who acted as an ornamental Secretary to the Embassy to Japan in 1882, was awarded the knight-commander of Portugal, and that of the Rising Sun, surely Mr. Nolasco da Silva ought to be made a Grand-Cross.

With reference to the former gentleman, I hear he has promised to obtain from the Lisbon authorities important concessions for the Chinese in Macao; in fact, the number of projects which he is said to have carried to Lisbon is legion. It of course remains to be seen how he and his projects will fare with the wide-awake tetrads and mamelukes of the Lisbon Colonial Office. It would be curious to see what impression a traveller hailing from a colony with a deficit of above one hundred thousand dollars in its budget, will produce in Portuguese official circles.

There are several candidates on the field to succeed the late Senhor Scarnichia as deputy for wo-begone Macao. The most active on the list is Senhor Horta, our Director of Public Works, who is canvassing for himself, and who, being supported by the Government, will in all probability, carry the day. The date of the elections has not yet been fixed. Mr. Basto's candidature has a poor chance of success in view of such an opponent. It is also rumoured that another Government officer has put in a claim towards being a representative of his country. If you could spare your veteran King of Siam during our next elections, I pledge my word of honour that I will put him up as a candidate for the rank of *deputado*. You must be perfectly well aware that anybody who can resemble the chameleon, and change his political colours as circumstances alter cases, is a fit person to be a Portuguese member of parliament.

Our worthy Governor, Senhor Costa, is probably now in Timor, enjoying the scenes of that "Cintia of Polyneasia," as Major Vaqueiras has styled the pearl settlement. The letter of credit to the tune of \$10,000 which he carried with him from Macao has probably been exhausted, for as soon as he arrived at Sourabaya he drew 10,000 florins on the Macao Treasury. I think our excellent Governor understands the art of travelling to perfection.

Active works are being carried out in the St. Antonio compound, some say with a view to peace, some say to build a new prison, with better reason to build a new prison, in that quarter of the town. Should the latter surmise prove correct, you may take it for granted that the adjoining territory of Mongha has been wrenched from the Portuguese by the Treaty. More power to it.

The silk factory squabble referred to in my last has considerably subsided, as the Government has permitted the factory to continue operations till the end of the year. The exports of coffee from Timor to Macassar and neighboring ports, which amounted to 75,000 piculs, has this year been reduced to 25,000 piculs. Perhaps Governor Costa will see his way to raise some other kind of revenue for that derelict island, or else its Treasury, like our own, is bound to fall into disgraceful bankruptcy. Two Chinese prisoners lately managed to escape from the Harbour Master's detention room by cutting a hole through the wall. It is reported that Lieut. Talone Costa is going to resign his post of Harbour Master, and that Capt. Avila will soon return from Lisbon to assume that office.

The buildings, where the former Customs house was located were sold to Chan Ahlok for \$50,000, the terms being that the purchaser should *pro rata* be the opium farmer for the space of ten years, by a payment of \$40,000 annually. The Chinese contractors for the supply of beef to this city have run away in a body, and left one of their number in great difficulties. The Municipality is now to undertake to supply beef to the inhabitants. The pork farmer still persists

in his refusal to pay the *Senado* the tax of 3 cents for each pig slaughtered, and the *Senado*, in its difficulties, have availed themselves of a sum of money belonging to the farmer. The contractors for lighting the city have petitioned the Municipality for a reduction of rates. The inhabitants of Macao are now paying the *Senado* 17 per cent. on their taxes as a contribution to the lighting of the city. And still so much darkness looms over us!

## AMOI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMOI, 6th April, 1888.

A party consisting of Messrs. R. H. Bruce and F. Leyburn, and Capt. Collinson of the 88th Regiment, went up country last week on a shooting expedition, and on Thursday the 29th March, Capt. Collinson succeeded in shooting one, which measured about 8 feet in length. The Hamilton Comedy Company, after playing at the Club Theatre for seven nights, left yesterday in the *Hallan* for Foochow, where they are to give two or three performances before proceeding on to Shanghai.

Senior T. Ortuño, Consul-General for Spain, leaves to-day with his family by the *Thales* for Europe. A fire broke out in the middle of the native city the day before yesterday, but fortunately was quickly got under before much damage was done. The Ocean Co.'s steamer *Patrol* left here yesterday with over 900 Chinese for the Straits Settlements.

## THE BANGKOK POST-OFFICE.

The late squabble in Bangkok regarding delivery of coolie letters from Hongkong, free of postage, has given rise to a general opinion that the Siamese officials were to blame in the matter, but this, as we shall endeavour to point out, is undoubtedly not the case. The authorities have in no way "given in," but simply come to an agreement with the Chinese local authorities, in consequence of which the Post Office will in future be saved a lot of trouble. It being difficult, in fact impossible for the P. O. authorities to deliver coolie letters, the addresses of such letters being invariably incomplete, the Local Government made an arrangement with the headmen of the Chinese, according to which the letters in question are in future to be handed to the headmen for delivery, in return for which these men were to be responsible for their reaching their destination. In return for such responsibility of the headmen and their undertaking to deliver the letters, the Post Office agreed to levy a reduced postage of 2 aits only for each such letter. In no way, therefore, has the Postal Department consented to let Chinese coolie letters be delivered free of charge, nor will such be the case in future.

As our readers are aware, both the Singapore and Hongkong local Postal laws prohibit the smuggling of letters just as strictly as the Siamese Act, all transmission of correspondence, except through the Post Office, being illegal and subject to heavy penalties. The attention of the Straits and Hongkong offices could not, of course, be drawn to any violation of these laws before positive proof had been obtained that such was the case, but as soon as the first seizure of letters was made here in Bangkok, the Siamese Postal Administration at once duly informed the Postal authorities in Singapore and Hongkong of the fact.

Bangkok steamship agents were notified of this smuggling trade several months ago, and were repeatedly requested to inform their captains, officers, commanders, etc., that it was strictly forbidden for them to convey letters to Bangkok unless in the ordinary way, and that if unstamped letters should be found being conveyed by any such person, legal proceedings would be taken against the offenders according to law. In reply, we believe that Mr. Annuske, secretary of the Postal Department, received information that due notice had been given to all concerned regarding the illegality of conveying such letters through captains and others, and that notice had also been sent to all steamship agents in Hongkong and Singapore. All must, therefore, admit that the Post Office officials appear to have done everything possible to make the matter publicly known, and no blame can attach to them for the late inconvenience caused to shipping.

The Siamese Postal department—to the tune of some \$1,800 a month, has long been a sufferer from thousands and thousands of unstamped Chinese letters being conveyed on board steamers coming to Bangkok and on arrival here smuggled on shore. The principal offender has been the Hongkong Post Office, over which presides that bright luminary, Mr. Alfred Lister, a postmaster who ought long since to have been pensioned off as a useless incumbrance. The way the Hongkong Postal department is conducted has long been a public scandal and the ludicrous pretentiousness with which Mr. Lister aspires to "direct" that office has never been more clearly exemplified than in the present scandalous case, by which thousands of letters are carried weekly on board Hongkong steamers and conveyed to foreign ports—free of postage—without that "great man" being whitewashed. By the very prompt measures now taken by the Siamese authorities, a step in the right direction has been made, and this profitable little swindle nipped at last, but the result has entirely been brought about on this side, without the least sign of assistance from either Mr. Lister, or his model postal officials in the Malta and Gibraltar of the East.—*Bangkok Times*.

## DYSPEPSIA AND THINKERS.

Intense brain-workers are dyspeptic, and the exceptions to this rule are very rare. As we review the biographies of great men, dyspepsia appears to have been their common enemy. "Tristes philosophes et savants" said Varro. The greatest impediment to advancing thought is the stomach. Dyspepsia is the philosopher's cross, which grows the heavier the higher he ascends. Those who concentrate all their energies on one thing only, never leaving it, do so at great physical expense. When we see a man, who has achieved great success in any department of life, burdened with dyspepsia, or consumption, or premature age, there comes the question with full force—What is it that profits a man if he gains the whole world and lose his life? Who can think of Tycho Brahe, confining himself for a score of years to his observatory, scarcely ever leaving it, without reflecting on the sacrifices of health he made to science?

Men do not appear to be very different as we look at them, but as Mr. Galton has shown, one man may possess several hundred times the mental capacity of another. But the unfortunate part of it is that the superior intellectual do not possess stomachs several hundred times as powerful as the inferior. The ring was written in the King's house or treasury at Jerusalem, and at the time of the Babylonian captivity was carried to the Assyrian court at Babylon and deposited with the sacred vessels, taken from the temple, but after the feast of Belshazzar, and the hand writing on the wall, upon the decree of Cyrus, Ezra carried it back, together with the holy vessels of the temple, to Jerusalem (see Book of Ezra, viii. 33), where it remained in charge of the high priest, and was deposited in the shrine of the new temple with other sacred vessels.

"The translation of the manuscript was nearly as follows: When the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon at Jerusalem, as recorded in Chapter X of the First Book of Kings, among other gifts she presented the King with this magic talisman, which was to be possessed of wonderful power as a talisman. The ring was placed in the King's house or treasury at Jerusalem, and at the time of the Babylonian captivity was carried to the Assyrian court at Babylon and deposited with the sacred vessels, taken from the temple, but after the feast of Belshazzar, and the hand writing on the wall, upon the decree of Cyrus, Ezra carried it back, together with the holy vessels of the temple, to Jerusalem (see Book of Ezra, viii. 33), where it remained in charge of the high priest, and was deposited in the shrine of the new temple with other sacred vessels.

more powerfully with my instruments of torture than Timotheus could do formerly with his lyre." Hippocrates and Galen said the same.

"Sickled over with the pale cast of thought," is an expression Shakespeare used; and how well it applies to the dwellers and workers in towns, carrying their everlasting crosses of keen mental competition: Dyspepsia, despondency, melancholy, biliousness, mental depression, are without a doubt the lot of those who attain greatness, as well as of only too many in society at large.

There is a grim story; we get it from Smiles:—One day a poor broken-down dyspeptic consulted Abernethy. The doctor looked at his tongue, felt his pulse, and inquired after his symptoms. "Well," said the frank Abernethy, "I don't think there is much the matter with you. You want stirring up; you want cheerfulness. Go and see that clever fellow Grimaldi; you will get a good hearty laugh; that will do you more good than physic." "Alas!" said the patient; "I am Grimaldi."

What is dyspepsia? To feel you have a stomach-ache is dyspepsia. He who has never felt the pressure of this organ is blessed beyond measure. The fact that the great men of modern times have suffered so generally from gastric debility is a poor compliment to the care they took of themselves. Goethe protested against the idea of philosophers being dried up by unhealthy creatures. The dwellers of the towns in ancient Greece enjoyed, we believe, fairly good health, but physioculture was not, as it is now, delegated to a second place. There are no public games, wrestling matches, etc. We have much yet to learn.—*Health*.

## REMARKABLE LEGEND.

PROBABLE ORIGIN OF "SHE."

Rider Haggard's romance "She," both in the form of story and dramatic adaptation, continues to meet with the public more, perhaps, than any of his other works. The names of some of the characters are not uncommon. "She," who is called "Ayeshah," bears the same name as the favorite wife of Mahomet, while "Kallikrates" is mentioned by Herodotus as a young Spartan officer. Pondering over this romance, a correspondent, who is fond of rummaging over old books and papers, has thought of a curious tale, which he has read, and which was published in London in 1880. It has taken the trouble to forward some extracts from its pages. The volume was written by Captain George Peacock, F.R.G.S., and is entitled "The Guinea or Gold Coast of Africa, formerly a colony of the Azumites or a city of Abyssinians in the reign of King Solomon, and the veritable Ophir of Scripture," etc., and in it occurs an Abyssinian account of the relations of King Solomon with the Queen of Sheba, and also a legend of a talismanic ring from which Haggard may have taken that portion of "She" which mentions the scarabæus, afterwards set in a ring.

The following is an extract from the pamphlet: "They (the Abyssinians) also aver that the Queen of Solomon, so called, in the Bible, was the Queen of Sheba, the sister to the ladies of Solomon's court, etc. They further state that Solomon took the Queen of Sheba to wife, 'for he loved many strange women.' [Here follows a note which says: 'There is a very curious story told in the Koran, viz: that Solomon by a stratagem, discovered the Queen of Sheba's legs to be covered with hair, and that, before he married her, she had the hair removed by a depilatory.']"

Mr. Saly, the traveller, saw a very old MS. copy of the Song of Solomon, written in the Ge'ez character, at an Abyssinian monastery. "The Queen of Sheba was converted from heathenism to the Jewish faith at Jerusalem," continues the account in the pamphlet quoted from, "and had a son by Solomon, who was named Menelch. With this son she returned to her own country, and after some time sent him back to Jerusalem to be instructed by his father. Menelch having been anointed and crowned 'King of Ethiopia in the temple at Jerusalem, and having also, at his inauguration, assumed or added the name of David, his original cognomen, returned to the Queen, with a company of Jews among whom were many learned doctors of the law, and particularly one of each tribe from whom the present Umbaras, or Supreme Judges, three of whom always attend the King, are thought to be descended. Azarias, the son of Zadoc, the priest, they say, was one of the number, and he brought with him a Hebrew copy of the law, which was committed to his custody as high priest, and which was burned with the Church of Azum."

A most remarkable legend connected with a talismanic ring, left as an heirloom by a certain Devonshire knight (Sir Warwick Tonkin), who lately died at Teignmouth, has come to the knowledge of the author, and as it bears some upon the chronological history of Abyssinia, and is so curious in itself, after making every inquiry into the circumstances, and finding from the late Sir Warwick Tonkin's physician and solicitor at Teignmouth that the facts connected with the possession of the ring itself and its reputed history were undoubtedly true, he gives it to the public.

"A gentleman who has seen this famous ring describes it to be an oval of two colors, with hieroglyphic or Siva-like characters engraved on it, the part for the finger being white, the crown or bottom rose color, but both out from one and the same stone. The legend states that it was once the property of the Queen of Sheba, and was given to Solomon as a sacred talisman with other royal gifts bestowed on that favored monarch, consequent upon this Abyssinian Queen's celebrated journey from Azum to Jerusalem 'long time ago.'"

"It appears that the Devonshire knight, to whom it belonged, on his death-bed stated that he had placed a precious ring (a family heirloom) in an interior drawer of a small cabinet, a great many years since, forgetting the secret of opening the same, and his solicitor now residing at Teignmouth, upon naming the circumstance to a gentleman engaged by the Court of Chancery to take an inventory of the effects of the deceased knight, after thinking and worrying for some time, at length succeeded in discovering the spring and exposing the hidden depository, where he found the casket containing the ring, together with four manuscripts of its history, one written in old Hebrew characters on papyrus, one in Latin, one in French, and one in English. The Hebrew manuscript was found to be in a very decayed condition, appearing very old and worn-out. The inner casket was of cork, elaborately carved and gilded.

"The translation of the manuscript was nearly as follows: When the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon at Jerusalem, as recorded in Chapter X of the First Book of Kings, among other gifts she presented the King with this magic talisman, which was to be possessed of wonderful power as a talisman. The ring was placed in the King's house or treasury at Jerusalem, and at the time of the Babylonian captivity was carried to the Assyrian court at Babylon and deposited with the sacred vessels, taken from the temple, but after the feast of Belshazzar, and the hand writing on the wall, upon the decree of Cyrus, Ezra carried it back, together with the holy vessels of the temple, to Jerusalem (see Book of Ezra, viii. 33), where it remained in charge of the high priest, and was deposited in the shrine of the new temple with other sacred vessels.

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treasures until the fall of Jerusalem and sacking of the temple by the Roman army under Titus, when a soldier got possession of the ring, but not knowing its great value, after spending all his booty, he offered it to his comrades. Not finding a customer, however, he went to a Jewish rabbi, who, knowing that the soldier had taken it from among the treasures of the holy temple, and being familiar with the tradition of its virtues, became the fortunate possessor, and it remained in his family for a long period. When the Jews were sorely persecuted in the early part of the Christian era at Rome this ring was sent by the rabbi, in whose possession it then was, as a propitiatory offering to the Pope to intercede for his people, and it remained as an heirloom at the Vatican until the reign of Clement VII, when that Pontiff sent it, from his own sacred finger, to Cardinal Wolsey, to be worn as a charm in the King of England's presence, with a promise that if the Cardinal could succeed with Henry VIII, in restoring England to the Catholic faith, the Pope would redeem the ring, and name Wolsey as his successor in Rome. Wolsey failed in his mission; the ring having evidently lost its virtue, his genius probably being an Abyssinian Jew, or spirit of the Agow caves, and ended against the Pope. At the death of the Cardinal, it remained with the monks of Leicester Abbey until the monasteries were suppressed. By some means not stated it passed into the hands of one of the ancestors of the said Devonshire knight, and has been handed down as an heirloom in his family ever since that period.

"The infant heiress of the late knight is a ward in chancery, and this celebrated ring having got into that snug harbor of litigation, we will leave it there with its wonderful history untold, but ascertained how it came into possession of Sir Warwick Tonkin's ancestors."

## CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

8th April, 1888.—At 3 p.m.

STATION.	Bar.	Therm.	Wind.	Clouds.	Humidity.	Direction.
Whampoa	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Shanghai	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Nagasaki	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Amoy	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Hongkong	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Swatow	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Shantou	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Shanghai	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Amoy	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Hongkong	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Swatow	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Shantou	30.0	81	W	3	—	—

9th April, 1888.—At 10 a.m.

STATION.	Bar.	Therm.	Wind.	Clouds.	Humidity.	Direction.
Whampoa	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Shanghai	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Nagasaki	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Amoy	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Hongkong	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Swatow	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Shantou	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Shanghai	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Amoy	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Hongkong	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Swatow	30.0	81	W	3	—	—
Shantou	30.0	81	W	3	—	—

The barometer is rising slowly and gradually, and is night for south-east winds. Overcast, warm and damp weather prevails. Barometer reduced to level of the sea in inches, tenths and hundredths. Temperature in the shade in degrees, Fahrenheit. Humidity a percentage of saturation. Direction of wind in points. Force of wind in miles per hour. Direction of surface current in points. Force of surface current in miles per hour. Direction of bottom current in points. Force of bottom current in miles per hour. Direction of surface current in points. Force of surface current in miles per hour. Direction of bottom current in points. Force of bottom current in miles per hour.

Hongkong Observatory 9th April, 1888.

## HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

FROM SHEWAN, TOMES &amp; CO.'S BAROMETER.

Barometer.	Thermometer.	Thermometer.	Thermometer.	Thermometer.	Thermometer.	Thermometer.
Barometer—P.M.	Barometer—P.M.	Barometer—P.M.	Barometer—P.M.	Barometer—P.M.	Barometer—P.M.	Barometer—P.M.
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## To-day's Advertisements.

## THE HONGKONG SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC SPORTS.

IN consequence of the inclement weather and the bad state of the ground, the above Sports are POSTPONED till TO-MORROW.

## THE ANNUAL ATHLETIC SPORTS.

will be held on the CRICKET GROUND, (kindly lent for the occasion),

TO-MORROW, the 10th April, 1888, at 2 P.M.

NO BOY WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE MORE THAN THREE PRIZES.

## EVENTS.

- 1.—Long Jump, boys 13 to 16.
- 2.—Throwing Cricket Ball, boys 13 to 16.
- 3.—100 yards Flat Race, boys 13 to 16.
- 4.—100 yards Flat Race, boys 9 to 13.
- 5.—100 yards Flat Race, boys 6 to 9.
- 6.—100 yards Flat Race, boys 9 to 13.
- 7.—High Jump, boys 13 to 16.
- 8.—200 yards Handicap, boys 9 to 13.
- 9.—120 yards Hurdle Race, boys 13 to 16.
- 10.—100 yards Hurdle Race Handicap, girls 6 to 10, post entries.
- 11.—200 yards Flat Race Handicap, boys 6 to 9.







